

CITY HALL TENANTS TO MOVE

Hall of Records Contemplated to Give More Commodious Quarters to Tenants of Municipal Building Who Complain That Present Room is Inadequate.

City Hall Committee Will Shift Probate Court to Quarters Formerly Occupied by Board of Education and Will Place Assessors in Probate Rooms.

Plans for a Hall of Records modeled after the present city hall and of the same exterior material but of different interior design are now being considered by the administration. The plan is to place the new Hall of Records on the green east of the present city hall.

There is room on this green for a building the size of the present city hall allowing for an ample walk from State street to Bank street between the buildings and for a large air space between the Franklin building and other property on the east side of the proposed building.

This Hall of Records would be designed to contain the office and records of the probate court, the tax assessors and the town clerk's offices, giving one floor to each department. Several architects already have drawn sketches of such a building.

The city hall committee is now devising plans to remodel the interior of the building to accommodate the needs of the various departments. The town clerk is to be given practically all the ground floor on his side of the building. The registrars of voters each of the office rooms now occupied by the tax assessors.

The probate office will be moved to the top floor of the building to rooms vacated by the board of education and a vault built there for the probate records. The tax assessors will have the present probate offices and a debt will be cut through the vault into the tax collector's office so that officials may use half the vault and the assessors the other half.

LEONARD WON'T TAKE POSITION IN POLICE BOARD

President of Fire Board Declines Place Proffered by Mayor Wilson.

The much mooted transfer of President John A. Leonard of the fire board to be a member of the police board to succeed President George S. Hill of that body will not take place. President Leonard will remain and will be re-elected head of the fire board. John H. Cassidy, Democratic member of the board, whose term expires Jan. 1, will be reappointed for another term of two years. Commissioner Lindquist, the retiring Republican commissioner, will be succeeded by George C. Peet, member of the health board, who has still another year to serve on that body.

Daniel J. Clifford, retiring member of the Bridgeport board of aldermen, is reported as likely to succeed Lou P. Bristol on the police commission. The successor to President Hill has not yet been decided on but John P. Stanley will be elected president of the board.

On the sinking fund commission Charles G. Sanford and Hamilton S. Shelton will remain for another term. On the board of appointment and promotion President William E. Seeley, republican, will remain and be re-elected president of the board; William P. Kirk and Sigmund Lowenthal, democrats, will remain. Carl F. Simon is slated to succeed Adolph Sherman, if he desires the place.

On the Health board Dr. Frank W. Stevens will remain as president and Dr. David H. Monahan has been tendered another appointment for two years. Charles H. Botsford is to remain as a president of the building commission.

Dr. Robert J. Lynch, president of the board of contract and supply will remain.

Attorney Richard L. Swain now has the inside track for appointment as assistant prosecuting attorney of the city court, since John P. Gray is not to receive another term.

Representative James P. Kelly will succeed Frank Brathwaite as assistant city clerk. Richard H. Sheridan will remain as assistant city clerk.

Whether Dr. George Long Ellis or George H. Edwards will succeed Rev. J. M. Richardson on the board of charities has not yet been decided. Mrs. M. H. Ford is said to be slated to succeed Rev. Matthew Judge on this board.

City Engineer Alfred H. Terry and City Attorney William H. Conley Jr. both will be retained for terms of two years more. Director of Public Works Jacob A. Courdade also will begin another term of two years on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward T. Price, 231 Vine street, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss E. Price, to a son of George J. Episcopo, pastor of the St. Francis church, to Frank Bullock, machinist of this city, son of Thomas Bullock of Wednesford, Staffordshire, England.

AGED WOMAN FORBIDS FUNERAL OF SUICIDE WITH HIS 4 VICTIMS

Two of Her Children, Two Grandchildren, Killed By Jealous Man Who Ends His Own Life With Draught of Carbolic Acid—Separate Services For Slayer.

Bethel, Dec. 30.—Bent with age and on the verge of collapse from nervous shock, Mrs. Hannah Riley, an aged colored woman, today visited a local undertaking shop where lay the bodies of her two children and her two grandchildren, murdered yesterday afternoon by her son-in-law, William A. Steele.

Beside the bodies of the victims of the quadruple murder was that of the murderer. He drank poison immediately after the crime.

The aged colored woman wept hysterically as she viewed the body of her daughter, Steele's wife, and her son, who had died while defending his sister. She dropped to the floor, moaning and mumbling incoherently, at the sight of her small grandchildren whose heads and bodies had been battered with an axe in the hands of their father.

In a frenzy, she ordered that Steele's body be moved away from that of his victims. She ordered that he be buried in a separate grave.

In accordance with her directions, there will be a quadruple funeral service tomorrow afternoon, when Mrs. Steele, her brother and her children will be buried. Later in the day, another funeral cortege will move from the undertaking shop and Steele will be buried in a separate grave.

GOAT, LONESOME COBBLER'S PAL, WILL BE BANNED

Board of Health Rules Against East Side Shoemaker's Pet.

With his wife and four children many times was a lonesome shoemaker, Joseph Endace, shoe-maker, at 1231 Pembroke street, will be deprived of his sole comfort, a goat, by an order of the board of health, issued this morning.

"Joe" started in business on Pembroke street about 10 years ago and as the years went by business picked up. Six months ago he purchased an up-to-date machine for the repair of boots and shoes. Business was thriving for three months or so until suddenly there was a noticeable falling off in trade.

This was caused by the presence of the goat in the shoemaker's household and patrons shunning the cobbler shop to avoid the peculiar atmosphere.

About three months ago the cobbler was notified by the board of health to keep his animal in the back yard and he complied with the order until the cold, wintry blasts began to annoy the goat. With the approach of winter "Joe" decided to keep the goat in his home.

The cobbler shop is an interesting scene every evening upon the approach of 8 o'clock, when "Joe" lays down his cobbler's kit after doing a hard day's work. About this time every evening a curtain on the window of the shoemaker's shop is half drawn and every electric light, with the exception of one, is extinguished. Then an interesting scene is depicted.

Gathered about the stove in the center of the shop may be seen "Joe," softly tuning a mandolin, while onlookers are the goat, four cats, a mongrel dog and a pair of rabbits. As the dance in the open stove are seen to flicker and cast gloomy shadows upon the walls and ceiling of the establishment the lonesome cobbler is heard playing a national air and humming an Italian ditty while his mind is many miles away across the sea, thinking of his wife and little ones in the gloomy cottage in the vicinity of Vesuvius.

According to patrons of the establishment who have had occasion to visit the place while the above scene is being presented, the goat is the most interested of the party while strains of music are coming from the mandolin.

When 8 arrives in the evening, "Joe" is wont to stop work even though it may displease his customers who are in a hurry to have their work completed.

While the cobbler is an adept mandolin player and has resided in this country for more than 10 years, the only American piece that he can play on the mandolin is "Blue Bell," and this old time ballad is often played upon the request of children who sometimes congregate within the shoe repair shop.

During the day the goat may be seen munching strips of leather and wandering happily about the shoe shop while "Joe" is humming a native song as he merrily pounds the sole of a shoe. He has long been waiting for the arrival of spring as he has been given to understand that by that time the goat may be milked and "Joe" will no longer need to purchase milk for the kittens and the pair of rabbits. But, woe to "Joe's" intentions, the goat will be taken away from him.

The cobbler shop is anything but a healthy place. Filled in one corner of the "caving room" is a ton of coal recently delivered. The coal was dumped upon the oil cloth and leaves a black ridge about the wall-paper.

Although it is necessary for the good of the health of patrons of the shoe shop and neighbors to have the goat removed, the sympathy of the residents of upper East Bridgeport is extended to the lonesome cobbler.

There will be no formal inquest by the coroner. Coroner John J. Phelan was notified immediately after the crime was discovered. He will accept the medical examiner's report that Steele's wife, his brother-in-law and two step-daughters were murdered by Steele, while in a jealous rage, and that Steele later committed suicide by drinking carbolic acid.

Victims of Steele's rampage are: His wife, Anna Steele, aged 28, his brother-in-law, James Reilly, aged 15, his step-daughters, Hannah and Winnie Hubbell, aged 6 and 5, respectively. Their skulls were crushed and throats slashed with an axe.

Discovery of the quadruple murder was made by B. W. Perry, who lives near the Steele house. Mr. Perry heard a noise on his front porch, and, investigating, found Steele's body there. Beside the body was an empty bottle that had contained carbolic acid.

Steele was barely alive when carried into Perry's house. Just before he died, he whispered:

"My folks are all home sick and you'd better send someone down there to see them."

Perry summoned Constable Ernest J. Bell, with whom Steele had been (Continued on Page 7.)

MOTORMAN IS HURT WHEN CAR HITS BIG TRUCK

Vestibule Collapses Upon Trolleyman Who Hits Unlighted Vehicle.

(Special to The Farmer.) Stratford, Dec. 30.—Speeding towards Bridgeport, half an hour late, a Shelton-Bridgeport double truck trolley crashed into a five-ton automobile truck, stalled on the trolley tracks at North Main street and Wakelee lane, Stratford, last night, at dusk.

Gray of cottage street, Bridgeport, the motorman, was dangerously injured. He narrowly escaped death as the vestibule of the car collapsed in collision with the pontoon truck. The vehicle, a coal delivery truck, is owned by Michael Hoffman, a Bridgeport coal merchant. F. J. Coulter was the driver. He was unhurt.

A great war was the impact that the front vestibule of the trolley car was completely smashed and Motorman Gray was wedged in between the broken splinters, the controller and the front door. He received a few cuts about the face and arms. All the muscles of his body are strained. Dr. De Ruyter Howland gave medical attention and later the trolleyman was sent home. The controller of the car, Patrick Dailey of Wells street, Bridgeport, and the passengers were uninjured. The driver of the machine was unhurt.

According to witnesses the car, a half hour late, was coming from Shelton to Bridgeport at a fast rate of speed. The auto truck was also going fast and a few minutes before it had been stopped by Special Policeman Alfred F. Wakelee, who resides nearby. He warned Coulter to stop for that purpose.

At Wakelee lane and North Main street the roadway is very dark and it was not until the trolley was within a short distance of the impending danger. He reversed his power but not in time to avoid crashing into the machine. Coulter was not on the truck but had just finished lighting the front lamps. The damage done to the truck was very slight.

Investigation is being made by the Stratford authorities. No arrests have been made.

COAL OPERATORS DENY DANGER OF FAMINE IS NEAR

New York, Dec. 30.—The anthracite operators today denied reports that a shortage of anthracite coal exists or that wholesale prices have been advanced recently. The statement explained that any difficulty consumers may have experienced in the past few weeks in securing anthracite has been caused entirely by the unprecedented freight congestion in all trunk line railroads in the East.

Officials of the Greek line said that at the rate of speed she is now making the Theoskoniki should reach New York Saturday morning. At noon yesterday she was 130 miles off Sandy Hook.

London, Dec. 30.—A despatch from Zurich, Switzerland, to the Central News, said:

"Emperor William, who is suffering from a suppurating phlegmon in the neck, has been given some relief, his doctors having resorted to lancing."

Generally fair tonight and Friday; not much change in temperature.

B. H. S. PUPILS VISITED HOTEL OF PROF. ATLAS

Witness Testified That She Heard Screams of Girls in Rear Rooms.

INTOXICATED WOMEN ARE FREQUENT SIGHT

Sensational Statements Are Made At Hearing Before Commissioners.

Hysterical screams of girls in rear rooms of the Hotel Atlas and accusations that boys and girls from the High school frequented the hostelry were mentioned this afternoon when the county commissioners held a hearing on the remonstrance against Prof. James Atlas' application for a liquor license. In his own behalf Atlas introduced business men in the neighborhood who testified that the hotel was not objectionable.

Laura Ray of 888 Broad street, was the most damaging witness against Atlas. For several years she kept a rooming house in Fairfield avenue next to the hotel. It was she who told of hearing girls screams in the rear rooms. She recalled the notorious fight that took place in the hotel about two years ago and testified on that occasion she saw a 17 year old girl intoxicated and standing cowering in a doorway next to the hotel. She also declared at another time she had seen a young man leading an intoxicated young girl from the hotel. The girl could hardly walk.

Rev. George M. Brown, pastor of the First M. E. church, was another sensational witness. He said he had heard of high school boys and girls frequenting the cabaret. He had heard that it was the custom for Professor Atlas to rent the same room two or three times a night and that the cabaret was a place where young people became intoxicated. Mr. Brown objected to naming the persons who had told him about these things but the commissioners ruled that he should give the names. He finally mentioned Janitor Hughes of the Universalist church, Laura Ray and Mrs. Snowden of Fairfield. When asked what the reputation of the Hotel Atlas was, Rev. Mr. Brown replied that it was bad.

Rev. William W. Ross, pastor of the Universalist church, directly across the street from the hotel, declared the reputation of the hotel was bad. "I understand it is a vile place," he said. The janitor of the church, who had seen intoxicated persons ejected from the hotel and had also witnessed some spectacular sights in the front windows of the hostelry.

James F. Cogswell, reporter on the Evening Post, said he knew the reputation of the hotel was bad. He admitted having a dispute with Atlas some years ago in regard to an article he had written about Atlas. He offered to tell what the story was about but lawyers for Atlas stopped him.

Atlas took the stand in his own behalf and testified he was conducting a bona fide hotel. He said he ran a first class place and allowed no disturbances. The hotel has been established about nine years, he said, and the cabaret has been running four years.

The following business men testified the location was suitable for a hotel and that they knew of no disturbances in the hotel: Peter Dawe, E. M. Jennings, William F. Kirk, Joseph Daniels and A. W. Smith.

It was said that the remonstrants planned to call Dog and Liquor Agent John Brown and several other members of the police department as witnesses before the hearing was finished this afternoon.

Assistant Clerk F. W. Tracy of the superior court, who is remonstrating as a member of the Universalist church, asked the commissioners to deny the application on the ground that the law gave the commissioners no right to grant a license to an establishment of good reputation but did not provide for the granting of a license when there was a cabaret in connection with the hotel. The commissioners denied that they would hear all testimony before giving a decision on the application.

PASSENGER SHIP, BADLY DISABLED, HEADING TO PORT

New York, Dec. 30.—Another radio message was received today from the Greek steamer Theoskoniki, which is making for this port with her boiler room partly flooded.

"On account of small damage," read the message, "we come with lessened speed. Engineers assure no cause for alarm. Account of strong winds speed four miles. When weather improves we should do six or seven miles."

Officials of the Greek line said that at the rate of speed she is now making the Theoskoniki should reach New York Saturday morning. At noon yesterday she was 130 miles off Sandy Hook.

KAISER IMPROVES AFTER OPERATION, HIS DOCTORS SAY

London, Dec. 30.—A despatch from Zurich, Switzerland, to the Central News, said:

"Emperor William, who is suffering from a suppurating phlegmon in the neck, has been given some relief, his doctors having resorted to lancing."

TWO AUSTRIAN DESTROYERS ARE SUNK IN NAVAL FIGHT WITH ALLIES IN ADRIATIC

U.S. URGES PAN-AMERICAN UNION TO STOP SHIPMENT OF MUNITIONS TO REBELS

Washington, Dec. 30.—Secretary Lansing has suggested to all the nations which, with the United States, comprise the Pan-American Union, that they join in a convention for the arbitration of all boundary line disputes and for the prohibition of shipments of war munitions to revolutionaries.

Secretary Lansing's proposal, which has the full support of President Wilson, is being forwarded by the Latin-American ambassadors and ministers to their home foreign offices for consideration. It is regarded as one of the steps in a wide plan, in which the Pan-American Scientific Congress now in session here is a part, for preservation of peace on the western hemisphere and a closer union of all the Americas.

The status of the negotiations and the details of Secretary Lansing's proposal are so far being held as confidential between the state department and the Latin-American chancelleries here. Mr. Lansing today declined entirely to discuss it in any phase and the diplomats uniformly declared they could not discuss a matter which was

DEFENSE RESTS CASE IN ROAD DIRECTORS' TRIAL; WM. ROCKEFELLER IS ALL

New York, Dec. 30.—The defense rested its case today, at the trial of William Rockefeller and 10 other former directors of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, charged with conspiracy under the Sherman anti-trust law to monopolize the railroad traffic of New England. The trial has been in progress since Oct. 13.

The announcement was made after Richard V. Lindabury, of counsel for William Rockefeller, had read to the jury a statement in behalf of his client who, as announced, was too ill to testify.

The statement was a stipulation agreed to by government counsel as to what his testimony would have been. In it Rockefeller denied that he ever formed or entered into a conspiracy to acquire the New Haven while he was a director or was made as the part of any preconceived plan. In voting for them, he said, he thought what was for the best interests of the New Haven and not for personal profit from his association with the road, except as came to all stockholders.

The New Haven directors, his statement said, were advised by "counsel of high legal standing" and since they regarded "as peculiarly qualified" to give advice. There were also lawyers among the board of directors and he never supposed "that anything he did was in violation of the Sherman law."

Rockefeller denied all knowledge of the negotiations between Charles S. Melton and Edward J. Chamberlain in connection with the Grand Trunk traffic agreement until a report was made to the board on the agreement which seemed to him much like other traffic agreements and which he was told had nothing to do with the abandonment of the Grand Trunk's extension from Palmer, Mass., to Providence, R. I. He also denied knowledge of the Metropolitan Steamship transactions.

After the government had finally rested, the jury was excused until Monday morning and Judge Hunt attended by counsel that both sides would not occupy more than two days each in summing up.

RAILROAD PLANS STORAGE YARDS FOR NORTH END

Tentative Agreement Made For Purchase of Burns Co. Land There.

Negotiations are now in progress for extensive bulk tracks and railroad storage yards in the North End adjoining the Berkshire division of the New Haven railroad system at Lindley street.

The extent of the yard is not definitely established though it is authoritatively stated that tentative agreements to purchase the Burns Co. yards have been made and that options have been sought upon the adjoining tract owned by Silliman & Godfrey.

The Burns Co. track, extending along the East Side of the tracks from North avenue includes about 12 acres in all with a railroad frontage of nearly 1,200 feet. Four bulk tracks accommodating nearly 150 standard size cars could be laid with a much larger extension to Park cemetery in the event of the Silliman & Godfrey purchase being made.

It is said that rapid development in the North End has occasioned the move on the part of the railroad company, which has suddenly been awakened to the necessity for future track facilities throughout rapidly growing Bridgeport.

Though George Burns, a partner in the Burns Co., preferred to have his associate, Theodore B. Ford, discuss the future plans of the Burns Co., it is virtually assured that in the event of the present sale being consummated the Burns Co. will remove its yards to the Calhoun farm recently purchased by the company. The farm is so located that the tracks may reach all parts of the city with little delay and at the same time with greatly enlarged acreage, much of which is pasture, will give better facilities for keeping a much larger number of horses.

Franco-British Fleet Sails Forth to Meet Austrian Squadron That Would Bombard Durazzo and Sends Two Warships To Bottom.

Other Vessels Forced to Flee Toward Austrian Naval Base, Says Announcement From French Marine Office—Russians in Attack.

Paris, Dec. 30.—Two Austrian torpedo boat destroyers have been sunk as a result of encounter with sea forces of the allies at a point outside of Cattaro, in the Adriatic.

The purpose of the Austrian ships was to bombard Durazzo. An allied squadron went to meet them with the result above set forth. In addition the remainder of the Austrian squadron was pursued by the warships of the allies and compelled to flee towards the Austrian base.

This information was contained in an official announcement of the French marine department given out today which reads as follows:

"An Austrian naval division having come out from Cattaro for the purpose of bombarding Durazzo, certain squadrons of the allies went forth to give battle. The Austrian torpedo boat destroyer, Lika, encountered a mine and was blown up. The destroyer, Triglav, of the same type, was destroyed by the fire from the ships of the allies. The remaining warships of the enemy were pursued and fled in the direction of their base."

There have been several previous encounters of lesser importance than the one now reported in connection with Austrian attempts to interrupt transportation of Italian troops to Albania and of supplies for the Serbian forces which have retreated to that country. Several supply ships have been sunk by Austrian warships.

The destroyers Lika and Triglav were sister ships built in 1903. They were 265 feet long, of 787 tons displacement. Each was armed with two 12-inch guns, six 11-pounders and two torpedo tubes.

Loss of U-Boat Denied

Berlin, Dec. 30.—The report from Bucharest sent out by a news agency that a German submarine had been lost in the Baltic is declared by competent authorities to be an invention. The Overseas News Agency announced today.

RUSSIANS UNDERTAKING OFFENSIVE AT BUKOWINA

Lopdon, Dec. 30.—Although Petrograd remains silent on the subject the public is inclined to believe the Russians are undertaking a great offensive in the Bukovina. Official Austrian reports, telling of attacks by dense masses of Russian troops, indicate that an important battle is under way at a point near the town of Bukovina, within the border of Northern Bukovina, but a simultaneous attack is being made along an extended front, reaching from the Pruth to a position north of the Niester, a distance of about 40 miles. The latest advice state that the Russian assault is being continued accompanied by an unusually heavy bombardment.

Unofficial reports from the extreme northern portion of the eastern front state the Germans have made a serious but futile attack in the region of Lake Babiut while the Russians west of Lake Kanger are threatening Miltan. These opposing attacks create a delicate situation as a successful advance by either would endanger considerable forces of the defeated opponent.

All along the west front, except for mining and aerial engagements or the British lines, the chief fighting seeks to be confined to the Vosges where, in the region of Hartmanns-Werkknopf the French claim to have made a successful advance. Berlin officially minimizes this success but does not deny it wholly.

Nothing has happened to change the Macedonian position but it is generally believed that any advance into Greek territory must be made by the Bulgarians, the opinion being that the Austro-Germans cannot spare enough troops for serious attack against Saloniki.

Domestic tension in England over the compilation question has been greatly relieved.

Heavy Fighting In Vosges

Berlin, Dec. 30.—Heavy fighting continues in the Vosges. Announcement is made by the war office that positions near Hartmanns-Werkknopf have been reconquered by the Germans. A British surprise attack near Lille failed.

A light snow fell in Laredo, Tex., for the first time in 20 years.

Baton Rouge, La., Dec. 30.—Gov. W. S. Hammond of Minnesota died suddenly early today at Clinton, La., about 20 miles from here, according to a telephone message from Clinton.